

BY THE NUMBERS

191% INCREASE
in property values

In Evanston, IL, land use and transportation agencies coordinated land use and transportation policies to increase property values, allowing the city to lower its tax rate.

NEARLY 40 
rural public transit systems

The Montana DOT worked with local councils on aging to coordinate efforts and apply jointly for grants to rapidly expand rural public transit service in the state between 2008 and 2015.

\$700 MILLION
in savings

A study from the Transit Cooperative Research Program found that coordinating transportation services among agencies can save millions nationwide.

74% 
of people value short commutes

Based on a national community preference survey conducted by the National Association of Realtors, short commutes are popular. Coordinating land use and transportation services can reduce commutes and increase transportation options.

Communities consist of intertwined systems of land use, transportation, and the built environment. How one system is managed impacts all other systems – increasing the need to work together to make positive change. As a result, health and transportation concerns can be found in different public agencies with similar or supportive goals. By working together agencies can meet these goals faster and with fewer resources. Decision makers are more inclined to support new initiatives that show a larger benefit to the community.

INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

MAKING CONNECTIONS

What can you do to support your local economy?

Reach out to land use, public health, public works, housing, economic development, and other public agencies to learn about plans or programs that may overlap with your transportation goals and objectives. Develop relationships with people in those agencies. When you're starting a new project, they may be more interested in getting involved. Think about private and nonprofit sector agencies that may also have overlapping interests. Whenever you coordinate efforts, save resources, and align projects, you are doing a service for your agency and community.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health_in_transportation/



What are the benefits of Interagency Cooperation?



FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We all need safe and convenient ways to get around – especially people who don’t drive. Getting people to work, school, and other destinations should be a priority for transportation, land use, public health, education, and economic agencies.

Increases mobility and access options

Partnerships between land use and transportation can improve mobility and access options for residents, especially those who don’t drive. Safe and convenient options to get to school, work, or critical services can make a major difference in people’s lives. Older adults can age in place longer if they have opportunities to walk or take transit to visit friends, make doctor’s appointments, and access other destinations. The Montana DOT worked with local councils on aging to coordinate efforts and apply jointly for grants to rapidly expand public transit service in the state between 2008 and 2015.

Sources in this brief include: Does Built Environment Matter for Innovation? A Quantitative Study of the Physical Assets of Innovation Districts in the United States, Transportation Research Board (2017), Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States, National Bureau of Economic Research (2014), Reconnecting Small-Town America by Bus: New Federal Transit Rules Spur Investment, AARP (2014), Economic Benefits of Coordinating Human Service Transportation and Transit Services (2002). Photos: Shutterstock.

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

When multiple agencies are working to improve the quality of life within their community, why not coordinate efforts? No single agency is responsible or able to make holistic changes to a community’s design alone– they need to work together to make sure all aspects of a healthy community are being considered, from safety, to transit access, to equity concerns.

Reduces costs of government programs

Agencies can pool resources and coordinate activities to meet joint goals. One study found that partnerships between transit agencies and health and human services agencies can save \$700 million across the United States through trip coordination and streamlining paratransit services. Including private businesses on project steering committees can encourage partnerships and sometimes financial support from the private sector.



Expedites project delivery

Projects can be delayed for many reasons – often due to lack of public support or a lack of funding. Bringing all important parties to the table early can move projects from conception to reality more quickly. Each agency can also provide support and outreach to prioritize and fund projects.



Attracts Business Investment

Coordinating land use planning and transit services can create attractive communities for new businesses. Small businesses are more likely to choose locations in mixed use neighborhoods with robust transit service. Resilient transit oriented neighborhoods depend on careful coordination between land use and transportation agencies.

FOR BUSINESSES

For many businesses, new transit service or other infrastructure project alone is not enough to entice new investment. Coordinated land use and transportation policies must also be in place.

Improves connections with the business community

Interagency programs are a great way to involve the business community and encourage investment. Land use and transportation agencies can put forward strong initiatives around transit oriented development or other planning efforts designed to improve public health opportunities and attract new businesses. Campbell Soup Company, as an “anchor institution” in Camden, NJ, is encouraging other businesses to support the city’s “Road to Health” initiative.